

AMERICAN FARMER.

RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICES CURRENT.

"O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norunt
Agricolae." . . . VINO.

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AGRICULTURE.

AN ADDRESS TO THE

Virginia Agricultural Society OF FREDERICKSBURG.

Delivered at their stated Meeting in May, 1819.

By James M. Garnett, Esq. President of said Society.

Gentlemen,

Permit me to congratulate you on the passage of a law incorporating our Society, for which a petition was presented by your direction to our late legislature. This measure at once secures permanence to our institution, and enables us both to hold and to manage funds sufficient for all our purposes; but the accumulation of these funds must depend principally upon the augmentation of our members, and the regularity with which we make our respective contributions. That the adjacent country affords ample materials for an Agricultural Society, on a large and liberal scale, none who know it can doubt. It seems equally clear, that no spot within our probable limits can furnish a more convenient place of meeting. No obstacles therefore exist to our success, than such as zeal and perseverance can readily overcome;—no means are wanting to ensure our prosperity, but those which a moderate share of public spirit can easily supply;—and few checks are likely to impede our utility, but such as we ourselves interpose. The public sentiment, every where, is highly favourable at present, to all the objects of our society;—let us endeavour then, to avail ourselves of all these auspicious circumstances, and according to the prudent farmer's excellent rule, diligently exert all our efforts "to make hay whilst the sun shines."

In discharging the duties of the office with which you have honoured me, could I believe, that I had nothing else to do, but to paint for your imaginations the pleasures of agriculture—the green meadows, the verdant lawns, and glowing landscapes of arable fields, with which a bounteous Providence has enabled the cultivators of the soil to solace and regale both their animal and intellectual natures, the task would not only be easy, but delightful. When attempting, however, to perform the part of a faithful pilot, I feel myself bound to exhibit, not merely a decorated sketch of the captivating scenery and picturesque views which the active, intelligent husbandman has often the power in a great measure to create, but also to trace a warning chart of the shoals and quicksands, the rocks and barren wastes, that too frequently impede his progress, exhaust his substance and mar his happiness. This although the most necessary, is by far the most irksome part of my duty; but in the endeavour to execute it properly, should I have the good fortune to suggest any hints which may prove practically useful, I shall deem myself amply rewarded.

It will not, I presume, be denied, that all those causes which influence the conduct and affect the character of any one class in society, are proper subjects of consideration and discussion for every member of such class. Hence it would seem not irrelevant in an address like the present, to take a somewhat wider range, than at first view might appear proper. Thus, if industry, skill, and economy, are evidently necessary to make agriculturists rich, and sound morals with improved understandings to render them happy; the cultivator of the soil who attempts to persuade his brethren to seek their true interests,

executes but a small portion of his task; and indeed may be said greatly to fail in his duty, should he neglect to urge every thing in his power in the foregoing topics calculated to demonstrate, that they are not less essential, than the judicious application of fertilizing substances, skilful tillage, and an attentive selection of the most perfect implements of husbandry. Shall the lecturer on agriculture be thought to depart from his proper province, who ventures to enlarge upon such subjects? I trust not; for surely it requires something more to form a complete and accomplished agriculturist, than to make him a mere planter and sower of seed, a reaper and mower of grass and corn, a contriver and fabricator of agricultural tools, a good tiller of the soil, an ingenious constructor of stercoraries, or a dextrous gelder of lambs and pigs. Not that I mean, or wish to depreciate a knowledge of all, or any of these matters, each of which is necessary in its proper place; but I confess myself anxious to prove, that it falls strictly within the limits of an address on such an occasion as the present, to aim not less at exalting the moral qualifications of the agricultural class of our citizens, than at their improvement in all the various mechanical operations incident to their profession. To inculcate a due regard to these, is certainly my duty; but I trust, that it will not be considered a departure from it, should I endeavour also to assert and maintain our just claims to the highest rank in public estimation on the score of general utility; to point out the chief means necessary for the attainment of this rank, and to impress this truth on every member of our numerous fraternity; that the cultivators of the soil are, in fact, the foundation, the main pillars, and Doric columns of our great social edifice.

It is, surely, not the sole business of the agriculturist to make good crops, and to enrich his land, or he would deserve to rank but little higher in the scale of being, than the ox, the horse, or the mule, which he drives. Would he either reach or maintain that exalted standing among his fellow men to which he has so just a title, let him make himself worthy of it by the diligent culture and unremitting care—not only of his fields, but of all his faculties both intellectual and physical.

That provision in our state constitution defining and limiting the right of suffrage, and which many consider its most valuable feature, is founded upon the principle, that those who own the soil of a country, should also be its legislators. On the merits of this much controverted question, this is not a proper occasion to enlarge; but thus much I will take the liberty to say—that as long as we have such a constitutional regulation, it surely is the paramount duty of every landholder so to educate both himself and his children, that should they ever be called to discharge this high function of legislation, they may not be found quite unqualified. To expect competent legislators, and the preservation of liberty in a country where the great mass of the people having the exclusive right to legislate, should be ignorant, would be not less absurd, than to calculate on reaping without sowing, on delicious fruits and corn from briars and weeds; or upon health and vigour from a diet of thistles and barnacles. Again—every parent is, or ought to be, the first instructor of his child in the rudiments of knowledge, as well as of the various duties incident to his more advanced age. Hence, his being a planter or farmer does not exempt him from the necessity of a considerable degree of moral and literary culture. Almost every Virginia agriculturist too, is also a slave-holder,

towards whose proper management many more qualifications are essential, than are likely to be found either in the vocabularies, or in the imaginations of young men suffered to grow up in the haphazard way, that too many farmers permit their sons to choose for themselves. So that whether we consider the agricultural class with a view to public utility or private interest, their general information and great mental improvement appear equally necessary.

But, after all, without industry and economy, the highest intellectual culture, with all the most virtuous dispositions imaginable, are unavailing to agriculturists, and upon these points it is feared, that sapient precepts will be found rather more abundant, than good examples. In opposition to the practice and influence of the last, stand our natural indolence, and a whole host of luxurious and expensive habits, the concomitant evils of our national progress in wealth and refinement. And such is the combined force of these powerful temptations, that neither the exhortations and commands to industry, so generally diffused through the divine book of our holy religion; nor the painful admonitions of daily experience, afford more than some feeble checks to their destructive operation. In vain are we told from divine authority, that "if any will not work, neither shall he eat;" and that "he who provideth not for his own, denies the faith, and is worse than an infidel." In vain do we see thousands of instances proving, that profusion, extravagance, and idleness, lead to poverty, ruin, and misery; extravagance and profusion still abound every where, and general indolence in far too many sections of our country, seems as incurable a malady as the plague. It is confidently believed; that our increased habits of expense superinduced by the rapid influx of commercial wealth, for the last 20 or 30 years, have occasioned an augmented use of the precious metals for the purpose of decoration, and what is falsely called ornaments fully equal to the whole specie circulating medium of the United States. But the true ornaments of the farmer, especially in a republican government, where almost every thing depends upon the character of its yeomanry, should be an open sincerity and simplicity of manner; a plainness and neatness of dress and equipage; a self-possession and independence of character placing him far above the servile imitation of all fopperies whatever, either of foreign or domestic growth; and a sociality of temper displaying itself rather in a warm, cordial reciprocation of hospitable intercourse with friends, neighbours and strangers, than in such vain pagentries, as can lead only to a deterioration of morals, or the ruin of fortunes. The sole hope of providing even a partial remedy for these evils, must be sought in a much longer and stricter course of intellectual discipline, than I fear, either agricultural fathers or sons will be willing to encounter.

Some of the effects of these changes in manners and habits, we already begin to see and feel most sensibly; but like the rest of mankind, always willing to place the blame of our errors on any shoulders, rather than our own, we very consolingly impose the whole burden upon the times! as if they could force us to spend money lavishly, whether we chose it, or not. But the truth is, the whole nation (with a few exceptions here and there) have in reality, for a long period, been "outriding their horses," and have kept their expenditures at the full gallop, whilst their incomes have (comparatively speaking) been only at a moderate trot: or rather perhaps, like highly pampered, ill-broken colts, we have caught the bridle between our teeth, and unresistingly

suffices our imaginations to run away with our better judgment. That these habits of prodigality are among the most prominent and formidable obstacles to the progress of our agriculture, I think no man of reflection can doubt. They inevitably create that "want of funds," so often resorted to, as the excuse by which we endeavour to conceal from ourselves and others the folly of delaying our attempts at improvement. And this pretext is admitted by many, as a full acquittal, if we only add the trite remark, that agriculture, like many other things, requires considerable capital to carry it on successfully. But it surely is very bad reasoning to say, that because we cannot do at a single stroke every thing which ought to be performed, therefore we will do nothing. Yet something strongly resembling this logic seems to influence the minds of those, who reply to the recommendation of so small a beginning, as a few bushels of clover seed and plaster of Paris, by pleading their inability to buy enough "to make it" (as the common phrase is) "worth while." If we have not the cash in hand, let us only consider how few of these retrenchments which all of us could make, would be necessary to effect the object, and that the money so laid out would pay us *shaving* interest. A few less ribbons and flourishes to our wives and daughters; a few less frolics to ourselves; a few less games of cards; some small diminution of our most costly liquors, and a moderate curtailment of numberless, little, unnecessary expenses which almost every man incurs, would soon raise a fund—taking the whole State into the calculation, sufficient to fertilize many thousand acres, at present nearly barren. If it be objected, that the ladies would probably demur, I must say, to the honour of the sex, that in nine families out of ten, where any economical reform may be deemed necessary, I am thoroughly persuaded, if the first sacrifices are not actually proposed by the female portion of the copartnership, they will be the first to make them, and to make them cheerfully too; especially where in all committees of finance they are treated contrary to custom, with the most unreserved confidence, as having a joint and not a separate interest. It is the height of absurdity in husbands and fathers to expect the members of their families willingly to relinquish any of their usual indulgencies, without having some good reason assigned over and above the master's unexplained wishes. Mutual confidence in money matters can alone beget mutual efforts in family economy and constitutes in fact, their only secure basis. It is equally true, that without a considerable degree of this economy, which is becoming more and more necessary every day from the diminished, and necessarily diminishing prices of agricultural products, the cultivators of the soil have no right to expect a great degree of wealth. Not less true, is it, that in practising this economy, fully half depends upon the other sex, whose dispositions in this respect, I must again repeat, have never I believe, had full justice awarded to them. In all the heroism of patient suffering; in every sacrifice of selfish gratification for family good; in the unrepining endurance of privations dictated by a sense of domestic duty, I fear, it must be acknowledged, that they are greatly our superiors, when not corrupted by false education, or utter neglect. Give them any good cause to believe that somewhat higher duties are expected of them, than merely to keep safe our keys; to compound puddings and soups of mysterious excellence; and to excel in the occult art of multiplying domestic fowls, (not that I would have any of these comfortable matters altogether neglected) and all the amiable, characteristic qualities of the sex; all the distinguishing excellencies of the female character will soon be elicited. Instead of being degraded by our selfishness, our jealousy, and our neglect into mere henwives and drudges, or fantastic toys (as we sometimes see them,) decorated with feathers, and bedizened with tinsel; altogether incapable of serious reflection; studying nothing but how to lavish wealth, to diversify frivolity, and to make coxcombs of the men resembling themselves in

disposition; we should behold, with much fewer exceptions than at present, a race of Beings at once the pride, the ornament, and the delight of mankind: the child's best instructors, the parent's most intelligent assistants, the enhancers of all pleasure to the happy, the best friends and comforters of the afflicted. But to return from this (I trust) very pardonable digression in honour to those of whom, under Providence, we owe not only our existence, but the first lessons of our early youth in knowledge and virtue, and the chief comforts and pleasures of our maturer years.

The general habits of fashionable expense in dress, equipage and living, so prevalent in the present day, as to have infected even the cultivators of the soil, produce not only excess of expenditure over income; but withdraw from the improvement of our lands, those resources now so profusely squandered on splendid foppery and dazzling gewgaws; on horse-trappings and riding carriages of excessive cost; on "Cossack pantaloons," "Wellington boots," thirteen-caped great coat, and male corsets, those most unmanly of all imported abominations of the present times; and in short, on the whole ridiculous and effeminate paraphernalia of modern Dandyism. Whether there be any necessary connexion between effeminacy of body and mind, and expensively luxurious habits of living, I will not take upon me to affirm; but certainly such an opinion has prevailed from the earliest ages. There is a curious passage quoted by Hume from that quaint and ancient chronicler, Holingshed, illustrating the prevalence of this opinion, at least as far back, as the days of Queen Elizabeth. I give it more with this view, than from any particular preference for the fashions of those times, which from all I can understand of them, would suit my own taste, perhaps as little, as that of any man in the nation. The passage is as follows:—"There are old men yet dwelling in the village where I remain, which have noted three things to be marvelously altered in England within their sound remembrance. One is the multitude of chimneys lately erected; whereas in their young days, there were not above two or three, if so many, in most uplandish towns of the Realm, (the religious houses and manor places of their lords always excepted, and peradventure some great personages); but each made his fire against a redosse in the hall where he dined and dressed his meat. The second is the great amendment of lodging: For said they, our fathers and we ourselves have laid full oft upon straw pallets covered only with a sheet under coverlets made of dagswaine and hohariots, and a good round log under their heads instead of a bolster. If it were so that the father, or the good man of the house had a mattress or flockbed, and thereto a sack of chaff to rest his head upon, he thought himself to be as well lodged as the lord of the town; so well were they contented. Pillows, said they, were thought meet only for women in child-bed: as for servants, if they had any sheet above them, it was well: for seldom had they any under their bodies to keep them from the pricking straws, that ran oft through the canvass, and razed their hardened hides. The third thing they tell us of is, the exchange of treene platters (so called I suppose from tree or wood) into pewter, and wooden spoons into silver or tin. For so common were all sorts of treene vessels in old time, that a man should hardly find four pieces of pewter (of which one was peradventure a salt) in a good farmer's house. In times past men were contented to dwell in houses builded of sawlow, willow, &c. so that the use of oak was in a manner dedicated wholly unto churches, religious houses, princes palaces, navigation, &c. but now sawlow, &c. are rejected, and nothing but oak any where regarded; and yet see the change for when our houses were builded of willow, then had we oaken men; but now that our houses are come to be made of oak our men not only become willow, but a great many altogether of straw, which is a sore alteration.

In those the courage of the owner was a sufficient defence to keep the house in safety; but now the

assurance of the timber must defend the men from robbing. Now have we many chimneys and yet our tender limbs complain of rheums, catarrhs, and poses; then had we none but reredosses, and our heads did never ache. For as the smoke in those days were supposed to be a sufficient hardening for the timber of the house; so it was reputed a far better medicine to keep the good man and his family from the quacke or pose, wherewith as then, very few were acquainted. Our pewterers in time past employed the use of pewter only upon dishes and pots, and a few other trifles for service, whereas now they are grown into such exquisite cunning, that they can in a manner imitate by infusion any form or fashion of cup, dish, salt, or bowl, or goblet, which is made by goldsmith's craft, though they be never so curious and artificially forged. In some places beyond the sea, a garnish of good flat English pewter, (I say flat, because dishes and platters in my time, begin to be made deep and like basins, and are indeed more convenient for sauce, and keeping the meat warm,) is almost esteemed so precious "as the like number of vessels that are made of silver." Such is the testimony of one of the most authentic and particular historians of the sixteenth century in regard to the manners, customs, and opinions of his own and the preceding age. But to come down to a period much nearer the present times. When I can first remember, the young sons of farmers and planters very rarely ever wore a great coat until after fifteen, now you may see them in some sections of the country, (with many honourable exceptions to be sure) coated, pantalooned, and corsetted out of all natural shape and motion; defacing God's image as industriously as they can; and resembling nothing "in the heavens above, nor on the earth beneath, nor in the waters under the earth."—The old farmers of former times, seldom, if ever wore gloves, unless perhaps of yarn or sheep-skin, made by their wives and daughters, as a sort of Christmas box or holiday present; and as for boots, one or two pair during life, (which was literally the whole amount of my father's stock, although he lived more than sixty years,) were deemed amply sufficient. I advert to these circumstances, not with any view of recommending a return to those long exploded, and almost forgotten habits: but merely to sustain my position, that expense and luxury have increased upon us of late years probably far beyond our means of indulgence; and to an extreme not only unnecessary but highly pernicious. Whether this is for the better or worse; and whether the hardy advocations of husbandry can be pursued most advantageously by a yeoman of the present fashion, or by one of the antique sort, it is for you to judge. Not that I would infer either that living as in the days of Holingshed, or going without boots, gloves, or great coats, would of itself make good agriculturists; any more than the mere utterance of patriotic sentiments, will make good republican citizens or the negative duties of abstinence alone, constitute true Christians. But I plead guilty to the fixed belief that as much real and substantial comfort as rational men need desire, may be attained at far less cost, than we at present, seem to think requisite for its attainment; and that to retrench a portion of our unnecessary expenses, or to diminish in some degree those which are unavoidable, by using cheaper, instead of the very costly materials required by the despotism of existing fashions, for the purpose of applying the difference to the improvement of our farms, will go a great way towards rendering the pursuits of agriculture, both more pleasurable and more profitable.

(To be Continued.)

TO CURE BEEVES TONGUES.

Rub the tongues with salt, and let them remain a day to take out the blood; then rub them well with salt petre and put them in brine; after they have been there three or four weeks, take them out and wash them well, let them smoke a day or two and hang them up in a dry place to keep.

FROM THE ALBANY ARGUS.

Treatise on Agriculture,

SECTION X.

Of other Plants useful in a Rotation of Crops, and adapted to our Climate.

[Continued from No. 38, p. 303.]

These may be brought under three classes; those which yield a colouring matter, those which yield oil, and those whose bark is convertible into clothing. Of the first, are madder, saffron, and woad; of the second, poppy, colzat, and palma christi; and of the third, flax and hemp.

I. Of Madder.

Madder is the *Erythros* of the Greeks and the *Rubia* of the Latins; so called from its imparting a red colour to wool and leather. It is cultivated in the Levant, in France, in Flanders, and in England; but no where more extensively or profitably than in Holland. The province of Zealand is principally occupied with it, and the little island of Schowen alone gives annually one thousand tons of the root.

The species generally cultivated are two—the *Azara* and the *Izari*; names by which they are called in the Levant, whence the seed is generally imported to Europe and preferred to that raised in more northern latitudes.

The soil most proper for this plant is rich loam, and the manures fittest for it, the sweepings of streets and gutters and the mud of ponds. (1) It is remarked in England, that it succeeds better after a grain than after a grass crop. The preparatory labour should be performed in the fall, leaving a single ploughing only for the spring; which like those that preceded it, should be as deep as possible. The planting should follow without delay. In the Levant they form beds, alternately, of unequal elevation; one high, the other low; on the latter, the madder is planted, (2) and in the autumn of the second year, the surface of the higher bed is scattered over that which is lower; and by a similar process the next year, the lower bed is raised six inches higher than the other. By this management, the earth retains sufficient humidity for the growing plants.

In transplanting madder, care must be taken to preserve the buttons, which attach themselves to the roots, and that the roots themselves be ten inches apart in the rows, and their crowns not more than two inches below the surface.

The greatest duration of the plant is six years, but three is the permitted term; as after that age the roots lose in colour and soundness what they gain in bulk. At three years, a single root has been found to weigh between thirty and forty pounds; and the larger the root, the less does it lose, in proportion, by depication. (3)

When the roots are taken up, they are suspended under cover, for ten or twelve days, to dry. During this time, much of the water of vegetation is evaporated; the plant becomes soft, and is then subjected to the heat of an oven, from which bread has been taken. After a second baking it comes out dry and brittle; and, to disengage from it the earth, the small fibres and the outer skin of the root, it is lightly threshed with a flail, after which it is fit for grinding.

II. Of Woad.

This plant, till 1756, was much employed and furnished the finest blue colour, and, in the opinion of some dyers, is even now very profitably united with indigo; giving to the colour imparted by it, more intensity as well as duration. The maturity of the

(1) Young's works.

(2) Madder requires more moisture, in its first stage, than might be furnished by rains and dews—Thence arose the method of raising the plants in a seed bed, where they might be watered at will, and afterwards transferred to the place where they were intended to grow.

(3) In large roots this loss is 6-7ths, in small ones 7-8ths.

leaves (the only useful part of the plant) is announced by their drooping and by the yellow colour which they take. At this signal, they must be stripped from their stems, housed, and left in mass till, freed from the water of vegetation, they begin to macerate by their own weight. They are then to be washed and reduced to a paste; after which, a fermentation takes place, and the fecula shows itself and forms a black crust, which is not to be broken, because necessary to prevent evaporation. When the fermentation has subsided, (which may be known by the diminished stench) the mass is pounded and formed into balls for use. The soil and preparation, indicated in the last article for madder, are most proper for woad.

III. Of Saffron.

This plant is cultivated only for the stigmata of the flowers, which give a yellow colour, employed in dying and in *guache* painting.

It succeeds best in a rich, friable black earth, or in one of a dark red or chocolate colour. Some writers have remarked, that the roots, which are bulbous, grow to the greatest size in the former of these soils, and that the flowers attain the highest perfection in the latter. The manure best adapted to it is old and thoroughly rotted dung.

After being well ploughed, rolled and harrowed, the ground intended for this crop is trenched, and the roots placed in the trenches nine or ten inches apart. So soon as the flowers appear, (and they always precede the leaves) the soil about them must be lightly hoed. When fully blown, and while wet with dew, they are taken off carefully with the hand and spread upon boards, to dry. The stigmata are then separated from the styles, after which they are ready for market.

IV. Of the Poppy.

The poppy is among the most important of the oil giving plants—as well for the value as for the abundance of its produce. The oil is altogether found in the seeds, and does not partake of any somniferous or other deleterious quality, as some persons have supposed. It is often mixed with olive oil, and so long as it is fresh it is equally pleasant and wholesome. It is much used in France, Holland and Germany, in sallads. Its only fault is, that if long kept it becomes thick and viscous. The plant is annual and requires a good and well laboured soil. The seeds should be taken from the ripest and largest capsules of the preceding year; should be sown early and thin, and in broad cast; because, if thickly sown, the plants rot, and if sown late they are injured by a too rapid vegetation. The fall of the leaf, the drying of the stalk, and the brown colour of the capsules, indicate the time for harvesting this crop. These last are carefully gathered and dried, and the seed separated from them.

V. Of Cole

Cole is a variety of the cabbage, and the seed of which yields an oil very useful to the arts, and renders the plant of great importance in agriculture. Its general management does not differ from that of any other variety of the kind. When the seed is ripe, it must be carefully gathered and separated from its chaff. The plantations of colzat in Flanders, and particularly in the neighbourhood of Lisle, Hasbroek and Douay, and on a part of the Escant, are immense. It generally follows a crop of well dunged, well laboured potatoes, and is followed by one of wheat. It makes part of their six years' rotation.

VI. Palma Christi, (the ricinus of botanists) has been cultivated in this state; but whether profitably or not, we do not know. Its seed gives an oil fit for lamps, but principally employed as a medicine. The cultivation of this plant has been tried in the southern parts of France, but not on a large scale, as it was found to require much ground and to give few seeds, which ripen only in succession. In Carolina, the stem attains the height of ten or twelve feet, and a diameter of four or five inches. As an ornamental shrub, the palma christi is much to be recommended.

VII. Of the Sunflower.

This plant is a native of Peru, and is cultivated, in Europe principally for the seeds, which give a large proportion of oil, of much use for domestic purposes. It requires a good soil, well manured, and thoroughly worked and cleansed. The seeds should be sown one foot apart, and in rows two feet asunder. In France, the stems are employed for fuel and pea sticks, and the leaves for fodder. (4)

VIII. Of Flax.

Flax is of Asiatic origin, and from its hardness and usefulness, is generally diffused over the globe. No plant undergoes a greater change in the hands of labour, and few, if any, better repays the labour bestowed upon it. (5) It is cultivated with two different views—one, for the fibre which surrounds the stem, and which is convertible into cloth—the other, for the seeds, which yield an oil very important to the arts. These different objects have been supposed to be best promoted by different kinds of seed and different kinds of culture. In England, it is believed that the seed of this country gives a flax of greater length and of finer fibre; and that the seed of Memel or Riga, (6) produces a coarser plant and greater quantity of seed. We doubt, however, the correctness of this distinction, and think ourselves supported by experience as well as theory, in placing the difference less to the account of any peculiar quality of the seed, than to the greater or smaller quantity of it sown; for we have invariably observed, that if flax seed (wherever grown) be sown thinly, the stem is shorter, the fibre coarser, and the seed more abundant—and vice versa. This difference will necessarily be increased by different modes of culture. The row husbandry, admitting of more ventilation, will hasten the maturity of the plant, and increase the quantity and quality of the seed; whereas the broad cast method will, on the other hand, retard the maturity of the plant, lengthen the stem and the fibre that covers it, and in the same proportion diminish the quantity of seed.

Flax may be made to follow potatoes very advantageously; and we have seen the practice of sowing it, with a crop of that kind, earnestly recommended. (7)

The time for harvesting flax, depends on the considerations suggested above. If seed be the principal end of the crop, your harvesting ought not to begin till this is completely ripe; whereas if the fibre be your main object, pull the flax two or three weeks earlier. Flax, thus prematurely pulled, is called *white flax*, and makes the finest thread. The exhausting quality of this plant is generally admitted, and has been long known. Pliny says of it, that it burns and degrades the soil in return for the nourishment it receives from it. (8)

IX. Of Hemp.

The cultivation of this plant need not be attempted on soils which are not naturally or artificially very rich. They who possess the former, will often find the culture of hemp useful in reducing the staple of the soil to that medium quality, which is best fitted for the production of grain. In some parts of our own country hemp has been cultivated many years in succession, before this effect was produced; and in Italy, in the neighbourhood of Bologna, (after centuries of cultivation) the rotation continues to be *wheat* and *hemp* alternately, and without fallows. So also in the environs of Termonde, near Brussels, the usual rotation is *hemp*, *flax* and *wheat*. (9) It is, perhaps, to these favoured soils we ought to look for

(4) See Crete de Paleuil on the sunflower.

(5) How wonderful the difference between the raw material and the Brussels lace!

(6) The flax seed of Riga is broad and flat, and of a darker colour than that of this country.

(7) See 2d vol. Varlo's husbandry.

(8) "Ut sentiamus nolente id fieri natura urit agrum deteriorerque etiam terram facit." Nat. Hist. L. xix.

(9) Francis de Neauchateau's state of husbandry in the senatoriat of Brussels.

the best mode of cultivating this very useful and profitable plant. "During the first year," says M. Simonde, in his picture of Tuscan agriculture, "the field intended for hemp is laid flat by the small Tuscan plough in the months of August and September. This is followed by the great plough, which re-states the four feet furrows, and throws up the intermediate earth into ridges. The manure is applied to these, in the spring; after which the hemp seed is sown and the ground harrowed. This crop, like that of flax, should be weeded when about four inches high."

X. Of Swallowwort, or Dogbane.

This is the *asclepias syriaca* of botanists, and not improperly called the cotton of northern latitudes. Its cortical fibre yields a fine, soft and white thread, and the pods a silky material, usefully employed in waddings and in hat making, &c. "There are few plants," says Sonnini, "the culture of which unites more advantages, or which is more worthy the attention of farmers." In Silesia, it has made considerable progress, and experience shows that in a middling, or even a bad soil, it gives a product eight times more valuable than the finest crop of flax or hay. It requires a strong and moist soil, well laboured and manured, and may be propagated by seeds, by suckers, or by roots. The row husbandry is the most proper for it, and in the course of three years, the intervals between the furrows will be completely filled up by new and multiplied shoots.

XI. Of the plant called New Zealand Flax.

This is the *formion tenax* of botanists; the leaves of which, by maceration in water, yield a fibre remarkable for beauty and strength. We owe to M. Lahillardiére, a series of experiments, the result of which shows, that the strength of flax being 11, that of hemp is 16 1-3, and that of formion 23 5-11. In the hot countries (of which this plant is a native) it is found on the sea shore; growing sometimes in wet or marshy soils, and sometimes in arid sands. M. Thouin has succeeded in naturalising it, in the north of France, which gives reason to believe that it may be made to succeed in this climate.

For the American Farmer.

SALEM, Jan. 7th, 1820.

SIR:

I dropped my letter to you of yesterday's date, into the Post Office here. In the agricultural paper it enclosed, I referred to the authority of Mr. Jefferson, for a particular use of the juice of carrots and the composition of parmesan cheese. I intended to have mentioned how I became possessed of that information, but forgot it until I had closed my letter. It was in a conversation with Mr. Jefferson, a dozen or more years ago. He gave me some account of his travelling (while he was minister of the United States, to the French court) to the south of France, and thence into Italy. Having arrived in the latter country, I asked him if he saw that part where the famous Parmesan Cheese was made? He went on purpose to gain information on the subject. I am very confident that I am not in error in stating, that the cheese was made of the evening's milk, skimmed early the next morning, and mixed with that of the morning, for making the cheese. He attended the process. When the milk had been warmed in a large copper, and the coagulation was completed, the curd was broken, and the whey separated. Of the latter, the greater part was taken out. Then the operator (a man) taking a large cloth, and stooping over and into the copper, dexterously passed it (the cloth) under the curd, and gathering the corners and sides of the cloth, the whey was returned into the copper, to render the curd buoyant, to facilitate the lifting it out of that vessel. The colouring was given with carrot juice.

I have just come from the Athenæum of this town, where I found Arthur Young's travels in France and Italy. Mr. Young says, the Parmesan Cheese is

made wholly of skimmed milk. The management of it in the copper, corresponds substantially with Mr. Jefferson's statement to me. It was a dairy of eighty cows, which he saw; and they were then fed with green clover cut and brought to their stalls.

Doubtless in different dairies, somewhat different practices prevailed. Marshall, in his Rural Economy, says, the single Gloucester Cheese is made of the evening's milk skimmed, and the new milk of the next morning; which in New England we should call a two meal cheese, and that the double Gloucester cheese is wholly of new milk, but made in the adjacent vale of Berkley.

I should like to see in the American Farmer, Mr. Jefferson's own statement of what he saw in Parma, or the Lodetan, relative to the Parmesan cheese; it would give him pleasure to furnish you with it. It might be useful particularly in the middle states, where the summer sun, gives probably about the same temperature, as in the more northern country of Parma, &c.

I am Sir, your obed't. serv't.

T. PICKERING.

John S. Skinner, Esq.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Columbia, S. C. Jan. 23d. 1820.

Mr. Skinner:

The various and very interesting articles on the grape vine, &c. which have appeared lately in your valuable publication the American Farmer, will, no doubt, open the eyes of many gentlemen in the United States, and particularly the southern ones, on this very profitable branch of agriculture. Many difficulties in the cultivation of the vines have certainly occurred, which have deterred many persons from the prosecution of experiments they had begun, and some are not wanting who positively affirm that the grape vine can never be cultivated with success in this country. This plant requires a very particular management, and I have no doubt that the repeated failures ought to be attributed to the want of skill in those who have attempted its cultivation. We are also told that several Europeans, who in their own countries had cultivated the vine with success, failed here in the attempt. I am ready to admit the truth of this, but it must be observed that differences in the soils and climate, and other circumstances which pertain to a new country like this, require not only the skill of other countries, but also judgment to investigate the causes of failure, and adapt the mode of culture to the particularities of the country in which it is to be carried on. It also requires some considerable degree of acumen, to discriminate what are the fundamental principles relative to the cultivation of that plant, and which ought to serve as a basis in the culture, wherever it is attempted, from mere local practices, which, though perhaps good where they are pursued, arose from particular circumstances in the soil, climate, &c. It is most undoubtedly true that every district of country in Europe, and, no doubt elsewhere, has something different in their mode of treating the vine. This accounts for the great diversity in the accounts we have in books on the subject, as to the cultivation of the vine. All these methods may be correct for particular circumstances; but must be very wide of a plan for universal practice. Such a plan I do not hope ever to see; we can only hope to have a few leading principles which may serve as a basis for all; but the superstructure may be in many in-

stances widely different. If our government, or some of our patriotic agricultural societies, would send a proper person to Europe for the purpose of inquiring into the different modes of cultivating the vine in that country, no doubt from the great mass of information thus collected, a very judicious person might frame a tolerable system, somewhat general in its application, and showing causes for such deviations from this or that practice, that would most probably lead us to success.

It is unnecessary here to show the very many and great advantages, that would result to this country from the culture of this invaluable plant. They are innumerable in a political, commercial and moral point of view. I say moral, because it is acknowledged, that the vice of drunkenness is much less frequent in wine countries, than in others where the use of spirits is resorted to. We must confess that it is a vice that defaces horribly the fair features of this country. I leave, however, this subject to abler pens. Would to God that men of talents would undertake to represent this in a proper light.

Notwithstanding the difficulties we have here to encounter in our experiments, we ought to persevere, and, no doubt, some of us will succeed, and will communicate to the public the results of their experience.

This is the season when preparations for planting are made, and I hope I will not be thought presumptuous, if I give an account of an experiment which I made last year, and which succeeded fully to my satisfaction.

On looking in the 3d vol. of the Memoirs of the Philadelphia Society for promoting Agriculture, 1st page, I saw a very interesting article signed T. Matlack, giving an account of a speedy mode of propagating the grape vine. It is thus: "Take a single joint of the vine you choose, cut it off at half an inch above the eye, cover each end with a sticking plaster of any kind, and set it in a pot of garden mould: the eye of the cutting must be covered with earth, and then watered to settle the ground; after this lay half an inch of horse dung on the surface to keep it from becoming dry and hard. Place your pot in your hot bed, etc. If it be inquired why a single eye is recommended, rather than a cutting of sixteen inches long, it is replied, that the roots shooting from a single eye, are exclusively from itself, are much the strongest and strike more directly downward; the shoot from it has less pith in it, the wood is firmer and shorter jointed, and comes sooner into full bearing; and it appears to be a much more healthy vine. And to these advantages may be truly added, that a thousand plants fit to set out may be raised from the single eye with less labour and within less space, than a hundred plants can be raised from long cuttings, which have not, that I know of, one single advantage in their favour; and in a new country it is of no small consideration, that the same cutting will produce five times the number of plants," etc.

Now in following Mr. Matlack's directions the most enormous number of pots required renders his plan impracticable. I have therefore tried to do without them, as in the following concise account. I cut my vine without having much regard to having only about half an inch above the bud, but cut them about half

way between two of them, except when the joint was very short, I left it rather longer below the bud than above it. I then made a mixture of about two parts of resin and one part of beeswax, and when they were melted and mixed, I dipt both ends of my cuttings into it which perfectly closed them. I then made choice of land somewhat moist, and after having prepared it well, laid my cuttings an inch deep, about ten inches apart, in rows three feet from each other. I then, according to the direction given by Mr. Matlack, strewed a little horse dung on the rows, and let them remain so till the weather began to be warm and dry. In South Carolina the spring is generally very dry, and at this time if great care is not taken of cuttings of every kind, the drought will surely dry up the young and tender roots of any cutting. To prevent this I covered the rows with moss, which had the desired effect, and my cuttings grew remarkably well. They attained in the course of the summer the height of three or four feet, and when I took them up about ten days since to transplant them where they are to remain, I was surprised to see what beautiful roots they had. I was so well pleased with this first trial, that I am now preparing a considerable quantity of cuttings in the same way. With respect to Mr. Matlack's mode of pruning, it appears to me very good, and according to principles that may be correct, but I have not tested it. All I can say of this subject is, that of all the Europeans I have seen that understood the management of vines, not one pays the smallest attention to cutting only above a clasper, and they generally leave for one shoot of four or five buds, one below it with only one or two buds, at most, which they expect will give them five shoots for the next year's pruning. The buds here left are of course below the claspers.

I beg you will look upon this as merely an exhibition of my desire to throw in my mite of information; but if it be not worthy of publication, I do not object to your throwing it into the fire. I am, Sir, &c.

N. H.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

ROTATION OF CROPS.

In the paper of 21st January, "a new rotation of crops" is proposed to the consideration of Agriculturists, on which the observations of Farmers are invited by the Editor.

It is not wholly new, but is a good course of cropping, as it proceeds upon the principles of an annual change of productions, autumnal ploughing, manuring, with cleaning crops and seeding clover.

But it seems rather too short a rotation, of 4 years, making as many shifts with 2 grain crops and one of clover only in that time.

It appears better to allow 2 years to clover, which perfects that plant, affords more grass or hay, refreshes the ground and saves ploughing. This will make the rotation consist of 5 shifts and the course of 5 years with the same species of crops.

But perhaps it is preferable to exclude turnips from the field at the same time with potatoes, &c. on account of the late coming in of that crop

and rather allot them a separate piece of ground of the extent suited to the views of the Farmer, which may remain till spring.—While the potato ground after taking up the crop, may be laid down in wheat or something else, which will cover the land in winter, protecting it from the drying sweeping winds, and furnishing an intermediate crop of grass, (as timothy) or tares and vetches, to be taken off next summer in time for wheat.

This course however, would displace the corn crop, as it stands in the "new rotation."—But if the fields are of the size common with us, they will be larger than most farmers would choose to fill with potatoes; and as the field is supposed to be manured, the corn may come in with the potatoes instead of turnips, as the ground can be cleared of both in time to sow any winter growing crop.

To exemplify what is now proposed, let the following rotation and division be considered. Supposing the ground well broke up in autumn, harrowed and manured over in the spring, which is generally preferred to spreading it in the fall.

1st. Potatoes and corn—Taken up in October and then seeded with,

2nd. Wheat.

3rd. Timothy and clover.—Sown after ploughing in the wheat stubble.*

4th. Do.

5th. Do.

Then potatoes and corn as at first.

Or—1st. Corn and potatoes—Manured, taken up in October and then seeding with,

2nd. Timothy and clover.

3rd. Do.

4th. Do.

5th. Wheat—Followed as before with timothy, &c.—or with buck wheat to prevent the weeds, which generally follow the wheat crop; and thus, if required, the ground is open for spring seeding.

A piece of ground should be reserved for turnips, pumpkins, cabbages, &c. that they may not break in upon the field course. And if the practice is adopted of cutting and feeding the clover green in the yard and stables to the stock; another piece of ground should be kept as a pasture in which they may walk and graze two or three hours a day.

This course would naturally divide a farm into 6 fields and appropriate it thus.

1 fifth in corn and potatoes.

1 — in wheat.

3 — in mowable grass.

A field of convenient size for turnips, cabbage and a division of pasture.

One lot of grass may be cut green and carried to the sheds and stables, during the summer.—Two for hay; which will furnish a considerable stock winter and summer, aided by the turnips, straw and potatoes.

* Quere by the Editor would not the timothy thus unprotected, be injured by the frost? and would not oats, being of quick growth if sowed with the timothy spring up and falling again under the influence of hard frosts, prove an effectual covering and protection to the timothy through the winter, without offering any interruption to its growth in the spring?

This arrangement has in view, to provide the necessary food for cattle and horses, as well as to support the strength and condition of the land.

It may be that many farms have permanent meadows, to which they trust for winter fodder; pasturing the fields not in tillage during summer. But all have not this resource and must provide other means; of which none is perceived better than clover fields, with roots, &c. Nor need their aid be disregarded in a reliance upon any meadows, for the maintenance of a great stock and improvement of arable land.

A considerable point is attended to in the rotation communicated; which is, that manure is to be laid upon ground open and to be ploughed in. This is much better than to lay it on the top of crops, where it is dried and dissipated by sun and wind. It is also followed by crops, as potatoes, corn, &c. whose necessary cultivation will destroy the weeds as they are brought up by the manure and stirring, and leave the ground cleaner for either grain or grass.

Communicated for publication in the *American Farmer*.

By J. DOZIER, Esq. Corresponding Sec'y.

Constitution of the Agricultural Society of Williamsburgh, S. C.

We the Subscribers, in order to improve agriculture and rural economy, do hereby bind ourselves into a society. And for its government adopt the following constitution:

Article 1. This society shall be stiled the Agricultural Society of Williamsburgh.

Art. 2. The object of this society shall be to improve the state of agriculture, by meeting at some convenient place, (which shall be agreed on by a majority) for the purpose of communicating and exchanging sentiments freely on that subject. Also, to discover the most convenient and valuable manures—to designate the best method of their application to the different objects of culture, as well as to the different soils—to procure and improve the implements of husbandry in general—and to ascertain the best modes of reclaiming new lands, and of renewing the old—and whatever else may tend to improve agriculture, and rural economy in general.

Art. 3. Any person may become a member of this society, who will subscribe his name to this constitution, and pay into the hands of the Treasurer the sum of two dollars and fifty cents. And every member shall pay into the hands of the Treasurer annually, the sum of two dollars and fifty cents.

Art. 4. Each member shall be at liberty to withdraw from the society, whenever he shall think proper, first paying up all arrearages, if any be due.

Art. 5. The society shall meet semi-annually, on the third Saturday in February and November in each year. And special meetings may be called by the President, when he may deem it necessary for the benefit of the Society.

Art. 6. The society shall have a President and Vice-President, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary and a Treasurer, to be elected by ballot at each annual meeting, by a majority of the members of the Society.

Art. 7. The Vice-President shall preside in the absence of the President; in the absence of the President and Vice-President, any member may be called to the chair by a majority of the members present.

Art. 8. A majority of the Society shall have power to fill all vacancies that may happen in the society.

Art. 9. All motions shall be addressed to the presiding officer, and by whom all decisions and votes of the society shall be declared.

Art. 10. The Recording Secretary and Treasurer shall exhibit their books to the society, at each semi-annual meeting for their examination, and shall obey such orders as they may receive from the society, relative to their respective duties.

Art. 11. It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to correspond with societies or individuals, on subjects relative to agriculture or domestic economy—to keep a book containing all such correspondence—and to file all communications he may receive touching his office—and to exhibit them at each regular meeting of the society.

Art. 12. It shall be held and considered as part of the duty of each member of this society, to communicate all improvements or discoveries he may make in agriculture from time to time.

Art. 13. This constitution may be altered, amended, or enlarged, whenever the society may think the circumstances of their association shall require it.

March 1st. 1819.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY.—No. 3.

The remarks of my last will be sufficient to give a general idea of the chief characteristic earths. It usually happens that one of these earths will predominate in the natural land. The soil should therefore be described as *calcareous*, *aluminous* or *silicious*, these earths are seldom found pure in large bodies, except the *silicious*, which is nearly so in sheer sand. The natural operations of chemical affinity, and the action of water, air, and gravity are continually operating to produce a mixture of these earths; there are also a thousand other materials contained in the general soil, the effect of whose operations on each other is always making approaches towards a more fertile mixture, and hence comes the degree of fertility, which is acquired under the old system of letting the land rest, a portion of the materials are again formed, which were before carried off by an injudicious mode of cultivation; these unwearied operations of nature seem to be ever preparing the surface of the globe for the hand of man; the rugged and silicious rocks of the Alleghany, crumble before the silent action of chemical affinity, they are separated and carried in smaller particles to the valleys, and in the lapse of time become the support of vegetation and the wealth of man.

The earths which have been already mentioned are often the recipients of acids, with which they form a variety of substances necessary for the support of vegetable life. Thus we find that lime is destructive to vegetable life, until com-

bined with an acid; it then acquires the most powerful fertilizing properties,—as is evinced by its combination with *sulphuric acid*, which forms it into *sulphate of lime*, or Plaster of Paris, and its combination with the *carbonic acid*, which forms it into the *carbonate of lime*, or limestone.

The *carbonic acid* (in the earth) is usually found combined with lime, which has a natural attraction for it. This acid appears to be the great promoter of vegetable life, but like other acids, there can be no doubt, would be destructive to vegetable life, if it could be applied in a concentrated form; this, however the economy of nature has provided against, by giving it the natural form of gas, by which it is mixed with the atmosphere, whenever it is disengaged from the earth, and is again absorbed from the atmosphere by other substances which have an affinity for it.

In our researches into the various phenomena of the earth and its productions, our admiration is frequently claimed by observing the connexion and dependance of the vegetable on the animal kingdom, and, vice versa, of the animal on the vegetable. This dependance is in no case more wonderful than in the operations and functions of the leaves of vegetables. Man and animals generally, are continually consuming by respiration, the vital air, or oxygen of the atmosphere. The leaves of vegetables, by an action nearly the same, absorb the carbonic acid, which is destructive to animal life, and give out a supply of oxygen, which keeps up the necessary equilibrium of the atmosphere, by supplying the portion destroyed by animal life. The carbonic acid of the atmosphere may therefore be esteemed as the vital air of vegetable life, as it furnishes the same support and action to vegetable life, as the oxygen of the atmosphere does to animal.

The solid combinations of this acid, among which is the carbonate of lime, which I have briefly noticed under the article lime in my last number, furnish to vegetables their most favourite food. The base of this acid is carbon or charcoal, which is well known to be the greatest portion of vegetable matter. In my next I shall proceed to the consideration of the sulphuric acid, and consequently its combinations, which will introduce the interesting article of sulphate of lime or gypsum.

A. B. M.

NOTE.—In the printing of my last communication, I observe some omissions, in treating of the article *alumine*, the subject should read thus:

Alumine or clay is the next in importance for the formation of good soils. Clay appears to possess but little chymical action in soils; its properties are rather mechanical; its extraordinary power of retaining water is happily provided by nature, to counteract the evaporating power of the calcareous earths. *Marts* consist of a mixture of these two great earths, which is the first approach towards a good soil.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

MR. SKINNER,

A writer for your paper of the 7th ult. over the signature of Silvanus, has offered excellent advice for curing Bacon, and insists that the hogs

for this purpose must be corn-fed. How long must they be so fed, is the question?

Experience has shown, that it requires but a very short time; to entirely change the flavour and texture of all kinds of flesh. In the year 1770, I resided in New Jersey, where it was the custom to take great numbers of wild pigeons in spring-nets, by the assistance of decoy pigeons, prepared for the purpose. The flesh of these birds, when first taken, is always very dark, and most generally tough. I have seen more than 300 of them confined, and fed in a large corn-house, and in one week, their flesh has not only become tender, but as white as a well fed chicken.

In 1784, I promised to present to a brother just married, a prime beef towards his winter stores,—I had a fine steer and a spayed Heifer, in a large wheat field, abounding with wild garlic; my brother named a day to send for his beef, and three days previous, we killed the Heifer, which although extremely fat, was to my great disappointment so thoroughly tainted with garlic, even to the marrow in the bones, that my house servants refused to eat it.—A bad prospect for my brother, whose wagon came the fourth day, and in despair I killed his beef, which was beautiful to the eye. I did not at the time pay much attention to a remark of his feeder, who observed that the steer had not eat any thing since the heifer was killed, my trouble was, the certainty of my brother's disappointment, but to my great joy, I soon received his letter of thanks saying, that a more juicy, tender, and fine flavoured beef, could not be.

Take two lambs of equal age from a garlic pasture, kill one immediately, and the flesh will be so tainted with the garlic, that no person of tolerable taste can eat it; keep the second from all food for one night or ten hours, and there will not be the slightest garlic taste. It is well known that cattle fed upon oil cake, cannot be immediately killed; but if kept from this food for two or three days, the oily taste is removed.

The foregoing facts are known to every experienced farmer, and they have convinced me, that hogs fed upon corn for two weeks, are much better than two months, for the plain reason that the flesh is equally good, and the expense is less.

Hogs as generally managed, are not only the most troublesome, but the most costly flesh we consume, and I have for many years been in pursuit of a plan to lighten the cost of their flesh, which is so absolutely necessary for the establishment of every Marylander. I flatter myself that I now see my way clear, for after two years trial, I am well satisfied, that the use of Cymbilins, Pumpkins, Ruta Baga and Clover, will enable me to send more corn to market, and with two weeks feeding upon that precious grain, my bacon will not yield to that of any person. No branch of rural economy requires more attention than feeding our various kind of stock. Our northern friends laugh and say, that in Maryland the hogs eat all our corn, and our negroes eat all our hogs. This is too true to be denied, and if my mite can in your opinion be of any use to the public, it is at your service.

As early as the season will admit, I prepare ground for Cymbilins, or squashes (*cucurbita verucosa*)—Rich land is best for all purposes,

but in this case, it is the first object to choose a place convenient to your hogs range. After ploughing and preparing the ground in the best manner, lay it off by a single furrow, four feet each way, and at the intersection, manure highly with well prepared manure, mixing it well with the soil, by spade or hoe. Upon this ground so prepared, plant Cymbilins (and the bunch kind I think best,) in every other row and hill, which will give to you at eight feet apart each way, about 680 hills to the acre. After planting the cymbilins, proceed to plant corn in the rows running north and south, that is only in one direction, between every row of cymbilins, and which being eight by four apart, will give you about 1361 hills of corn to the acre. It is unnecessary to remind the careful farmer, that the most scrupulous attention should be paid to this ground, while the vines are young, for after they begin to fruit and run, nothing can be done, except to pull by hand, the strong high weeds.—When the fruit appears, be careful to mark for future seed, such as you wish to propagate, for it is desirable to have early fruit.

The drought of last summer will not be soon forgot, and yet from less than an acre of unfavourable ground, I kept in high condition more than 60 head of hogs of all ages (sucklings excepted;) they had not any grain, and but little grass.—It was our rule to take a certain number of rows every day, so that there was an interval of five days, and all fruit as large as a man's fist was pulled. It would sometimes happen, that fruit was neglected until it became hard but not dry, in this case, the feeder cracked them upon his cart wheel.—A careful and steady person should be appointed to pull, one who will neither neglect the fruit, or tread upon the vines, for if well managed they will continue bearing until your pompions are ready, and these will carry you on to the fortnight before the intended day of killing.

I claim no merit from the Cymbilin culture, it justly belongs to Tench Tilghman, Esq. of Talbot, and other gentlemen of that country, but believe me, that while I continue to raise my own pork, I never will omit the cymbilin culture. Let us however not forget the pompion as an able, and almost necessary auxiliary, and of which there is many varieties; the long yellow is I think, for many reasons the best. In 1818 my cymbilin patch was small, and as my object was not only to have fat pork but to save corn, I began early with the pompions; yet hogs could not be fatter, and my stock of old hams, can yet testify the quality of the meat. Yet cymbilins and pompions are not alone a sufficient substitute for corn; some food is necessary to carry you through the winter and spring, until your clover and cymbilins are ready. The Ruta Baga is an excellent vegetable, which will supply your want. We now know that they are infinitely more nutritious than the common turnip, that they are sufficiently hardy to remain in the ground through the winter, and yet better, if buried in small heaps in a well shaded northern aspect. They will be found in high preservation to July.

Clover is less injured by hogs than by any other stock, by sheep the most, and hogs after a few days will not root it up; but it is desirable that every farm should be provided with a hog range well enclosed, uniting wood land for acorns

and shade, bottom land for water, rooting and wallowing, and contiguity to clover. Ten hogs will not injure the growth of timber, as much as one cow. The hog indeed eats all the acorns he touches, but in his rootings he buries great numbers to a secure depth: the cow not only nips, and of course kills all the young sprouts of nuts, which she perseveringly hunts after, but she browses upon and tears down young limbs, and rubs and twists young sprouts from stumps.

If I have extended my remarks beyond a mere recommendation of the cymbilin culture, and with a view to save grain, which is always a cash article; it is also from a wish to encourage persons who reside upon poor lands adjoining extensive woodranches, to turn their attention to rearing hogs upon a large scale.

For the cymbilin, pompion, and Ruta Baga, but little land is necessary, and for the two first articles, but little manure. Clover is certainly of great service, but if there is plenty of the other vegetables it may safely be dispensed with. I would give you my opinion of the quantity of ground necessary for twenty hogs, but fear I have already trespassed on your time.

I must however observe, that instead of washing my bacon with warm water previous to hanging it, I have experienced the best effects from washing with a strong lie, made from clean hickory ashes.

I am respectfully, yours &c.

A Subscriber.

For the American Farmer.

MR. SKINNER,

I read in your paper some time ago, a "receipt to make currant wine," and I am satisfied that a pleasant cordial can be made from the currant, as directed; but I have never tasted any currant wine that could not be distinguished from the juice of the grape. The currant is not cultivated in sufficient quantity, to produce a general supply of wine, even if it is better, or cheaper than the imported wines. I have also seen in your last Farmer, a receipt for making what the writer calls Tokay, and although I have not had an opportunity of making a comparison between cider wine of eight years, and tokay of fifty years old, I am well assured that his composition will make a fine wine.

I have, for a long time past, made all the wine I have used in my family, and sometimes have it very fine, as might be proven by many of my friends, who have partaken of it, and particularly by Gr. Wt., who has named it Pomelco, and as soon as the navigation opens, I will forward you a sample of a cask now on tap, which I think you will approve of. I do not claim the merit of the discovery; I took the hint from a worthy agriculturist, Mr. Cooper of New Jersey, but I think I improved it. I could not succeed to imitate the juice of the grape, by using peach or apple brandy, although it produced a pleasant cordial, but the French brandy exceeded my expectations.

To a barrel of cider, made of sound selected fruit, add at the press, or soon after it is made, two gallons pure honey, and place your cider in a proper place to ferment; after the fermentation ceases rack it off into a clean cask, and add

two gallons of French Brandy; in the succeeding autumn, fine it as wines are generally managed, and it will soon be fit for use.—It ripens much faster than grape wines. My practice has been to make my cider of the Carthouse or Pennock apple, (which I think are best) in November; let it stand until February, then rack it off, and add the French brandy, and towards the fall, fine it with the whites off eggs and new milk; whether fining it earlier would be an advantage or not, I cannot say, but I always found it was more readily fined by the ingredients I used in the fall, than in the spring, when it was new, and I never had any clear enough to bottle in March.

A.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Brief directions how to make Good Cider.

Gather your apples late, lay them in piles to sweat, carefully pick out those which are rotten, and cut off the rotten parts from those which are partly affected. Grind and press them, and strain the juice by putting a small whiff of straw into the funnel. Let your casks be large, place them in a warm cellar, fill them and leave the bung out, reserving one of them empty. In a few days they will begin to ferment, keep filling them occasionally, that the froth and pumice may work out at the bung hole. When it has ceased working, draw off the cider of one cask, from a spile a few inches from the bottom to avoid the sediment; put the contents into the empty cask, clean the cask, fill it from the next, and so on, until all is drawn off, when a new fermentation will take place, and repeat this until the cider ceases to ferment. Then take four fingers of fish glue or isinglass, and boil it in one gallon of clear cider for each hogshead, pour it into the bung, and stir it well, lay on the bung without stopping it close, and let it remain till perfectly clear, which will be in about a fortnight; after which it may be bottled off, drawn into small casks, or permitted to remain for use. A mixture of apples makes good cider. The best Marcus Hook cider is made of the Carthouse apple; and cider made by these rules will be as clear and as brisk as Champagne.

PIPPIN.

N. B. One rotten apple is sufficient to give an unpleasant taste to a hogshead of cider.

Translated from a French Journal for the city of Washington Gazette.

Importation into France of the Goats Tibettu, Schky, called Angola Goats.

On the 17th of August the king deigned to receive at a private audience, the Chevalier Amedee Jaubert, master of requests, lately come back from Asia, and to propose to him, with that benevolence his majesty always grants to distinguished men and for useful things, several questions, both relating to the state of the countries in which he has travelled, during the course of divers preceding voyages, and to the actual results of the distant journey he has just performed.

His majesty has remarked with pleasure on the details this traveller has had the honour to give him, and the public will not learn without interest, that the importation of the goats of Thibet, effected under the auspices of the government, by Messrs Ternaux and Jaubert, continues to promise the happiest success. The number of these valuable animals, now

in the best state of health, amounts to near 450, not including a score of rams and ewes of the breed called Astrakan.

The flock is divided in three divisions: the first amounting to 144 goats, has been placed in the royal sheepfold of Perpignan; the second, of 204 in number, has been committed to the enlightened care and patriotism of Mr. Pierre Aguilon, a proprietor of woodlands, situated on the high mountains which surround the bay of Toulon to the north. The department of the Bouches-du-Rhone possesses the third.

The identity of these animals, with those the wool of which is used in the manufacturing of the finest Cachemere shawls, cannot be any longer called in question. This wool is so white, soft, fine and silky, that seeing it, is sufficient to be convinced, that nothing more perfect has ever existed. On another side, the reports of all the European travellers, who went as far as the heads of the Ganges and Thibet, the unanimous and authentic declarations of the eastern merchants from whom inquiries were made, as well in Constantinople as in other places, and more than that the name given to the wool and to the goats of Cachemere, in the language of the errant tribes, among which Mr. Jaubert has found them—all these circumstances together contribute to dispel the possibility of a reasonable doubt on the origin of the animals lately imported.

It was undoubtedly to be desired, that one of the naturalists and writers on agriculture that France can boast of, should take upon himself the care to determine the true characters of the new breed, to make known in all their extent, the precautions which have been taken in order to ensure the preservation of it, and to point out the probable results of the effected importation. This desire will be fulfilled by a short notice, that one of our most distinguished, learned men, intends to publish on that subject.

The government of the king as well as all France, are indebted to the peace, for the protection that Mr. Jaubert has experienced throughout the states of his majesty the Emperor of Russia. In consequence of the orders given by his Imperial majesty, on the recommendations of the duke de Richelieu, then prime minister, Mr. Jaubert has received from all the public functionaries, generals, &c. in the service of the Emperor, the most cordial welcome; that friendly reception has not been confined to Europe; Mr. Jaubert has experienced help and protection from the advices and credit of a great number of Persian, Boukhar and Armenian merchants, especially, who effectually assisted him in an enterprise so much the more interesting in their eyes, as they easily perceived the project had been suggested by a disinterested mind, actuated by zeal for the prosperity of his country; so powerful on the heart of man, and so natural are those feelings which command his esteem for all that is noble and generous.

The reputation that Mr. Ternaux enjoys among all the merchants and manufacturers of the world, the esteem which one cannot refuse to the zeal of so distinguished a learned man as Mr. Jaubert, so well known by his courageous labours and his knowledge of the eastern languages, manners, and diplomacy, have not a little contributed to the success of the enterprise. The share which these acquirements have had in its success must be a powerful encouragement, principally to those persons who apply themselves to the study of the several dialects in use among nations of the east, a study so important for the maintenance and increase of our commercial relations with Asia, that with the acquaintance of the Tartar and Persian languages for instance, one may be understood, not only in the Peninsula of India, but as far as Irkoutchik and Kiahta upon the frontiers of China.

Furthermore it is flattering, in noticing this honourable competition, to meditate on the prospect of the happy results that such simultaneous efforts can give to civilization in general, and in observing the degree of perfection which mechanical arts have attained

in our country, to think that as much as the French nation was worthy of the glorious success which rewarded her valour in war, in the same degree is she capable of reaping the advantages of peace.

Mr. Jubert arrived in Paris a few days ago: he brings along with him not only magnificent patterns of wool, he himself procured from the flock, but several fragments of antiquities, models, &c. equally destined to add to the wonderful improvements of our national industry.

For his part Mr. Ternaux has shawls manufactured from the wool of the said flock, and some from the fleece of the animals, that died during the passage. The wool of the latter has been gathered from the fleeces in the presence of a jury called for by his excellency the minister of the interior, and composed of Count Chaptal, Peer of France, President of the Society of Encouragement, the sub prefect of St Dennis, the Mayor of St Ouen, Mr. Christian, Director of the Conservatory of arts and mechanics, and Mr. Bellanger, manufacturer in Paris.

The examination made by that jury testifies that this wool is equal, if not superior to that imported by the French commerce from Asia, and the public will be able to compare the fineness of the shawls that are in fabrication, and which will be exposed at the next exhibition with those that are now selling.

A particular circumstance has occurred to give a new security of the genuineness of the race of the animals just imported. His excellency, the minister of the Interior, having been informed, that some animals of the same race were in England, has ordered several to be brought, and among them a ram coming from the Gardens of the English East India Company at Calcutta, who is descended from a goat of Thibet; this animal is absolutely of the same species of the goats imported by Mr. Jaubert. But whether he belongs to a variety of this species or has degenerated in consequence of the hot climate of Bengal, it is certain that he is inferior to the animal, which the French flock is composed of: it is just so with the finest of the same race which came likewise from England, and which the government has ordered to be sent to Alfort, where they are to be reared. The wool of these is very fine, but of a brownish colour.

We shall not conclude our observations without paying to the duke of Richelieu, the tribute of homage which is his due, and the share of gratitude, that belongs to him for this valuable acquisition. It is through that minister, Mr. Ternaux found protection and encouragement; it is he who has given to this worthy manufacturer the advice and recommendations which have facilitated his enterprise, and without which it would have been impossible to attempt it. This benefit is a new service rendered to France by the statesman to whom the national gratitude has already decreed by the three legislative powers a reward due to his signal services.

For the American Farmer.

MR. EDITOR,

I believe communications have been sent to you from almost every section of the state; but as well as I recollect, you have received none from this county, Somerset, Eastern Shore of Maryland. You will therefore indulge one of your subscribers in making a few remarks on the subject.

Being engaged in the occupation of agriculture, for some time past, and having felt an earnest desire for its promotion, it has been a source of the deepest regret to have witnessed the wretched system pursued in this county—which, instead of mellorating the soil and rendering it more productive, has been fully calculated to destroy every fertilizing quality; and, if obstinately persisted in, must reduce its followers to poverty.

The soil generally in the lower counties of the Eastern shore of this state, was originally good; and, had even a moderate degree of care been paid to it, or some return been made for its bounties, it might still have been in a prosperous state. But owing to the miserable manner of cultivating, it is now in places, reduced almost to barrenness. It has been usual with some persons to put their lands in Indian corn every year or every other year; with others, to observe the three shift-system, until the soil was completely exhausted—and the land was then turned out. Another piece was cleared, which being treated in the same way, met the same fate. Experience has at length proved that this plan must not be followed much further. For, where now do you see those beautiful forests of oak and pine that once covered the earth? They have disappeared—and if the same ruinous plan of clearing and then destroying the soil is pursued, in the course of a few years, we shall really need the timber that has been so shamefully wasted.

I am happy to say, though, that a spirit for improvement has arisen. Farmers have begun to be more active in collecting the materials for manure—they resort to the woods for leaves and decayed vegetable matter, which they cast into the farm-yard—bring their corn stalks in and litter their cattle upon them; and some cart in ditch bank, or other earth, which being united with the animal and vegetable substances in the farm-yard, forms a valuable compost.

Judging from some Addresses to Agricultural Societies, we should be led to believe that Agriculture was at its lowest ebb—at the extremest point of degradation on the Eastern shore. It is true, as I before observed, that the manner of cultivating the soil in this part of the shore, has been most ruinous; yet even here, some spirited and intelligent farmers, and some beautiful and well cultivated farms can be found.

And as our resources of manure are most abundant, I look forward with certainty to a period not far distant, when we too may be noticed among agricultural people. The means of improvement are within our own hands; we only require our minds to be directed to the best and most expeditious mode of fertilizing the soil, and energy enough to pursue it. Manuring, and fall or winter ploughing are objects of the highest consideration. Nay, without a proper attention to these things, we need not expect our lands to be restored to their original fertility.

The establishment of an agricultural Society in our county, would be productive of most useful consequences. Such a thing has been talked of for some time past, and I hope it may be carried into operation. The good effects of such an association must be obvious to every intelligent man.

In conclusion, permit me to say, that I know of no circumstance so well calculated to promote the interest of agriculture in our country, as the general circulation of your valuable paper.—That you may succeed in your laudable undertaking is the most fervent wish of

Your obedient servant.

J. S. SKINNER.

Printed every Friday,

For John S. Skinner.